

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 DHA-05 IO-14 /091 W  
-----059696 260359Z /17  
R 252125Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1754

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 5235

EO 11652 NA  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR  
SUB: PRESS STORY RE REMARKS OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
SCHNEIDER RE DOMINICAN OPPOSITION PARTY

1. THERE FOLLOWS ACCOUNT OF DEVELOPMENTS ATTENDANT ON PRESS  
STORY ATTRIBUTING TO DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MARK  
SCHNEDIER REMARKS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO  
DOMINICANO (PRD), THE LEADING DOMINICAN OPPOSITION PARTY.

2. ON THURSDAY AUGUST 18, THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT MORNING TABLOID  
EL SOL CARRIED A STORY BY ONE RAMON GRULLON, DATELINED WASHINGTON,  
ALLEGING THAT DURIN A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LATIN AMERICAN  
CORRESPONDENTS IN SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE, AFTER ACCOMPANYING  
AMBASSADOR YOUNG ON HIS CARIBBEAN TRIP, SCHNEIDER STATED HIS  
PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE PRD WAS A "WINNING CARD" IN THE FORTHCOMING  
DOMINICAN ELECTIONS. SENATORS KENNEDY AND ROYBAL WERE  
REPORTEDLY PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.ACCORDING TO THE  
ARTICLE, SCHNEIDER  
ADDED THAT "WE AND VARIOUS LIBERAL US SENATORS" WOULD BE  
WATCHING THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN SO THAT THEY  
COULD PROMISE THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE THEY WOULD OBTAIN WHAT THEY  
DECIDED AT THE POLLS.

3. AMBASSADOR HURWITCH CALLED THE ARTICLE TO SCHNEIDER'S  
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ATTENTION IN PHONE CONVERSATION THAT AFTERNOON AND LATER  
SCHNEIDER DICTATED TO AMBASSADOR AND DCM STATEMENT DENYING HE  
MADE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. IT WAS AGREED EMBASSY WOULD USE  
STATEMENT ON CONTINGENCY BASIS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IT MIGHT  
RECEIVE ON ARTICLE.

4. ON AUGUST 19, FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ MENTIONED IN CONVERSATION

WITH CHARGE THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE RECEIVING QUERIES ON ARTICLE AND WERE WONDERING HOW TO RESPOND. CHARGE NOTED THAT SCHNEIDER HAD DENIED MAKING REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AND THAT EMBASSY INTENDED TO RESPOND TO INQUIRES ABOUT ARTICLE WITH PREPARED STATEMENT, WHICH CHARGE READ TO JIMENEZ. JIMENEZ INDICATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR EMBASSY TO ISSUE SUCH STATEMENT TO CLARIFY MATTER. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD HAVE THIS DONE EMBASSY STATEMENT WAS RELEASED TO PRESS THAT AFTERNOON AND WAS GIVEN PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE SAME AFTERNOON AND FOLLOWING MORNING.

5. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT, ISSUED IN SPANISH TRANSLATION.

BEGIN QUOTE AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PRESS YESTERDAY ALLEGEDLY QUOTING MARK SCHNEIDER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AS EXPRESSING VIEWS CONCERNING THE OUT COME OF THE COMING ELECTIONS.

THE ARTICLE IS MISTAKEN.

MR. SCHNEIDER DID NOT GIVE ANY INTERVIEW, EITHER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SANTO DOMINGOAS PART OF THE DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADOR YOUNG OR IN WASHINGTON.

THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO AN OPEN, FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS.  
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AS TO PARTICULAR PARTIES OR CANDIDATES, THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO COMPLETE NEUTRALITY, BELIEVING THAT CHOICE TO BE A MATTER FOR THE SOVEREIGN DETERMINATION OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE. END QUOTE.

6. ON MONDAY, AUGUST 22, EL SO CARRIED ITEM QUOTING CORRESPONDENT GRULLON FROM NEW YORK AS HAVING REITERATED SUBSTANCE OF HIS ARTICLE ON SCHNEIDER'S REMARKS, CITING PART OF WHAT HE CLAIMED TO BE RECORDED REMARKS, AND SPECIFYING THAT PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH REMARKS WERE MADE WAS HELD IN OFFICE OF SENATOR KENNEDY AT 3:30 PREVIOUS WEDNESDAY AND THAT CERTAIN OTHER REPORTERS WERE PRESENT.

7. EL CARIBE, A PRESTIGIOUS MORNING DAILY, REPORTED IN A UPI DESPATCH FROM WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 24 THAT SCHNEIDER, ON BEING QUERIED BY TELEPHONE AT HIS VACATIONRESIDENCE, HAD DENIED BOTH HAVING MADE THE REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AND HAVING BEEN IN SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON (WITH THE YOUNG PARTY). SCHNEIDER STATED, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THAT HE HADN'T MADE THESE REMARKS EVEN IN PRIVATE.

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## Message Attributes

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